



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

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POLICY STATEMENT ON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

January 1998, Updated July 2001

Organizational Principles

The Planning Department requires adherence to some basic organizational principles related to successful neighborhood associations including:

- non-overlapping boundaries among voluntary neighborhood associations,
- equitable geographic representation,
- membership that allows all businesses, property owners, civic institutions and residents within the geographic boundary to participate,
- an organization consisting of officers representing all citizens in the neighborhood,
- regularly held meetings, and
- an organization that is open and includes minority opinions.

Evidence of nonconformance to the organizational principles may result in appropriate action being taken by the Planning Director. This action could include removal from the listing of neighborhood associations registered with the City of San Antonio.

Neighborhood Association Boundaries and Geographic Size

The Planning Department encourages all neighborhood associations to select well-defined boundaries that include an area of appropriate geographic size. Generally, neighborhood association boundaries should include about one square mile. Populations may range from about 2,500 to 5,000 people, approximately the population needed to serve an elementary school. Neighborhood association boundaries generally are based on major arterials, natural barriers and other environmental features.

The Planning Department will consider appropriate geographic size and boundaries when determining whether to register a neighborhood association. Boundary or geographic size issues may result in the Planning Department denying registration.

Membership

The Planning Department encourages neighborhood associations' membership to include renters, homeowners from all sections of the neighborhood, property owners, large and small businesses, churches and community groups. The objective of diverse membership is to help build

partnerships and a self-reliant organization. Membership cannot be denied if an individual belongs to other associations or organizations.

Master Plan Consistency

The City of San Antonio Master Plan includes several statements related to neighborhoods including Goal One: Preserve, protect and enhance the integrity, economic viability and livability of San Antonio's neighborhoods. Policy 1g under this goal calls for encouraging the establishment of neighborhood associations, recognizing their importance in achieving the goals set for neighborhood development.

Benefits of Registered Neighborhood Associations

- Provides the contact information needed for Zoning Case Managers to send a notice about a pending zoning case to any registered neighborhood association whose boundaries fall within 200 feet of a zoning case.
- Helps guide and unify your community efforts to improve your neighborhood.
- Facilitates participation with the Police Department's SAFFE/COP programs.
- Helps develop working relationships with the City departments and the City Council.
- Ensures that your group is organized and representative of the neighborhood.
- Improves communication with other public agencies, the private sector and nonprofits.